

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)

Adm. Gary Roughead

HAC-D Oral Statement

March 9, 2011

Thank you very much. Chairman Young, Vice Chairman Dicks, and members of the committee, it is my honor to appear before you in my fourth year as the Chief of Naval Operations, representing more than 600,000 Sailors, Navy civilians and families who operate and live globally. I appreciate your continued support for them as they continue to carry out our Maritime Strategy.

Our Navy continues to meet operational commitments and respond to crises as they emerge. We're engaged in Afghanistan and in Iraq, with 14,000 Sailors on the ground in those two countries and another 14,000 at sea in the region where we provide 30 percent of our fixed-wing air support to our troops on the ground in Afghanistan. Our presence in the Middle East also gives us the flexibility to respond to the sweeping changes we see taking place there.

But our interests extend beyond that and so do our operations. Today we have 65,000 Sailors deployed and about 40 percent of our force structure forward. We are globally present and will persistently engage, providing deterrence in Northeast Asia and presence in the Western Pacific, conduct counter-piracy in the Indian Ocean. We are building maritime partnerships in Africa, South America, and the Pacific.

Demand continues to grow for the offshore option our Navy and Marine Corps team provides the nation. We assumed the lead for the first phase of phased adaptive approach of ballistic missile defense in Europe and are working with the Missile Defense Agency on providing that same capability ashore.

We created the new Information Dominance Directorate on my staff, which has enabled us to make better decisions and investments in countering anti-access and aerial denial strategies. We recently established the U.S. 10th Fleet, our cyber fleet, which has demonstrated its expertise by conducting joint and naval operations in the cyber, network, cryptology, and space arenas.

To deliver the above, we have been pushing the fleet hard. Having 288 ships today, it's the smallest we've been since 1916, when our national interests and responsibilities were nowhere near where they are today. That's why 313 ships remains the 'floor' of our future force; and why sustaining fleet capacity and capability is important to reaching that floor.

Since I became CNO I have focused on ensuring that the Navy is ready, that our quality of work and quality of life are fulfilling to the men and women of our Navy, and that we place underperforming programs back on track. We have introduced stability, affordability, and capacity into our shipbuilding and aviation plans; and with the assistance of Congress, we have advanced capabilities to meet the most likely evolving threats.

We have secured a fixed-price dual award for 20 Littoral Combat Ships. The next one to be delivered will be the good ship, Fort Worth, which will come to us shortly. We have addressed strike fighter capacity with multi-year F/A-18 procurement.

And pending a decision on the Continuing Resolution, we will build two Virginia-class submarines this year, another DDG-51, we'll start the mobile landing platform, construct and refuel our aircraft carriers as planned, and continue the design of our replacement strategic deterrent submarine.

I am pleased with our accomplishments and I thank Congress for their continued support of our acquisition strategy.

Our fiscal year 2012 budget request is a balanced approach to increasing fleet capacity, maintaining warfighting capability, and developing and enhancing our total force. This budget goes beyond ships and aircraft. It enhances electronic warfare, information dominance, integrated air and missile defense, and anti-submarine warfare capability.

It continues to develop a family of unmanned systems that will work in concert with our manned systems to secure access and establish maritime superiority where and when we choose.

It continues our effort over the last two years to reduce the total ownership costs, and leverages the opportunity presented by the Secretary of Defense's efficiencies to reduce excess overhead, improve readiness, and reinvest in warfighting capability and capacity that improves the long-term sustainability of our force.

Importantly, it supports the Secretary of Defense's health care initiatives included in the President's budget, which continue our efforts in health care to improve internal efficiency, incentivize behavior, ensure all our beneficiaries are treated equitably, and enhance our ability to deliver high-quality health care for years to come.

You can be exceptionally proud of our Sailors and Navy civilians – who they are and what they do. Today's Sailors are the best with whom I have ever served. I ask for your strong support of our fiscal year 2012 budget, and I thank you for all that you do to support the men and women of the United States Navy – our enduring global force for good.

Thank you very much